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Title:

Press release - Cooper Creek Basin Liquids Pipeline

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State Cabinet has retained the services of Sir Norman Young, Chairman of the Natural Gas Pipelines Authority of South Australia, to organise a preliminary study of the problems and issues involved in the construction of a new liquids pipeline to transport crude oil, condensates and liquid petroleum gases from the Cooper Creek Basin to Adelaide.

This was announced today by the Premier, Mr. Dunstan, who said he had noted with considerable interest and satisfaction the successes achieved in recent months by the producer companies in locating progressively higher volumes of crude oil and liquids in the Cooper Creek Basin.

He was delighted that the effort and enterprise of the producer companies had been so well rewarded.

As a first step to evaluating the economic significance of these discoveries, it was necessary to have a fairly reliable estimate of the cost of building a suitable pipeline, as well as detailed information about available markets for the products, both within and outside Australia.

In particular, the Government would take steps to ensure that the valuable natural resources of the Cooper Creek Basin were applied to the maximum extent possible in the public interest by being used in such a way as to provide the maximum financial return to the State and the maximum amount of employment within the State.

Sir Norman will also report on the extent to which existing facilities connecting the natural gas fields in the Cooper Creek Basin with Adelaide might be used in relation to a liquids pipeline.

Through the Natural Gas Pipelines Authority, the Government has already established a right-of-way to the field and has provided an important and costly communications link.

Cabinet had also authorised Sir Norman to retain the services of Bechtel Pacific Corporation to carry out the required preliminary feasibility study. Bechtel Pacific had supplied the engineering design for the natural gas pipeline & had also supervised the construction of this line.

The Premier said that he would expect Sir Norman to confer with representatives of the producer companies at an early date.